



NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 7, 2001

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WESTWOOD ONE DONATES MUTUAL NEWS AUDIO ARCHIVE TO GW

Larry King Radio Shows Among Broadcasts to be Digitized by GW's Gelman Library for Use By School of Media and Public Affairs, Westwood One and Others

WASHINGTON – Westwood One Radio Networks, the world's largest provider of radio programming, has donated its historic Mutual Broadcasting System news audio archive to The George Washington University. The collection, comprising thousands of reel-to-reel tapes that span more than fifty years of broadcasting, includes the now legendary overnight Larry King Radio Shows that catapulted the interview host to national prominence.

"We're thrilled that this wonderful archive will be preserved at The George Washington University," said Bart Tessler, vice president of news at Westwood One. "It's exciting to have this vast collection in an academic setting where students, scholars, and researchers can access the material. It will also serve as an active archive for Westwood One to use in our current programming."

The Mutual Broadcasting System was created in 1934, making it one of the earliest radio networks in the country along with CBS and NBC. Through the Special Collections Division of GW's Gelman Library, the tapes will be preserved and ultimately digitized for use by students and faculty in the University's School of Media and Public Affairs, as well as by scholars, historians and researchers.

"This collection is extremely valuable because it provides actual recordings of the most important figures in history over the last fifty years," said University Librarian Jack Siggins. "To not have such a resource would be a significant loss to our culture and to future generations."

In addition to Larry King programs, the collection includes almost 30 years of "The World Today," Mutual's historic daily news roundup, and full coverage of major events such as the assassination of President John F. Kennedy and the O.J. Simpson trial. Westwood One also donated Mutual Broadcasting System memorabilia such as signs, awards, and plaques.

"The Mutual Broadcasting System played a vital role in the history of mass communication in America," said Michael Freedman, GW's vice president for communications and a professorial lecturer in the School of Media and Public Affairs. "By preserving this

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collection and ultimately digitizing it, this significant archive of newscasts, special reports and Larry King radio shows will never be lost or forgotten.”

GW will store the collection in a temperature and humidity controlled room at the Washington Research Library Consortium facility in Upper Marlboro, Md. The controlled environment will slow the natural decay that takes place with audio tape until the collection can be digitized.

The donation of the archives coincides with the opening of GW's Media and Public Affairs building, a new seven-story academic center at 21st and H Streets, N.W., in the heart of the Foggy Bottom campus. Grand opening events are scheduled for March 7-8.

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**FORMER DEFENSE SECRETARY WILLIAM S. COHEN TO SPEAK AT
GW'S ELLIOTT SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**

Lecture to Inaugurate Robert J. Pelosky Jr. Distinguished Speaker Series

EVENT *"The Making of National Security Policy: Views of the Past and the Future,"*
lecture by **William S. Cohen**, chairman and CEO of The Cohen Group, and
former Secretary of Defense. Sponsored by The George Washington University's
Elliott School of International Affairs as part of the Robert J. Pelosky Jr.
Distinguished Speaker Series.

WHEN Thursday, March 8, 6:00 p.m.

WHERE Marvin Center (Dorothy Betts Theatre)
800 21st Street, NW
Washington, D.C.

COST The lecture is free and open to the public.

Background:

William S. Cohen is the Chairman and CEO of The Cohen Group, a strategic business consulting firm based in Washington, D.C. He served as Secretary of Defense (January, 1997 - January, 2001) and was responsible for reversing a decade and a half of continuous decline in the defense budget and the defense procurement budget; the largest military pay raise in a generation; and adoption of electronic commerce and other best business practices in the Defense Department. As a three-term United States Senator (1979-1997), he was a recognized expert on defense and international issues, health care, and government procurement.

The Robert J. Pelosky Jr. Distinguished Speaker Series was recently founded by Elliott School alumnus Robert J. Pelosky Jr. to assist in attracting leading scholars and practitioners to the Elliott School to address key international issues facing the United States. Pelosky holds a master's degree in international affairs from GW. He is a managing director and global strategist for Morgan Stanley Dean Witter in New York. He is also chairman of the Elliott School's International Council.